

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

I am a licensed acupuncturist maintaining a private practice in Norwalk, Trumbull and Southport and I live in Fairfield CT.

***Please do not vote to support SB 353 An Act Concerning Opioid Abuse unless the language pertaining to the practice of Acupuncture is removed. I respectfully request this bill be returned to committee.***

I am hereby submitting written testimony opposing SB 353 AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOID ABUSE.

As a past President and former secretary of the state acupuncture society (The Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CSAOM)) that represents the state's Licensed Acupuncturists. SB 353 includes language to change the scope of practice of licensed alcohol and drug counselors trained as acupuncture detox specialists (ADS).

***Several years ago the DPH made it clear that no scope of practice change would be considered without the professions involved agreeing on what changes could be made before the legislative process. That procedure has been ignored.***

As required by the Department of Public Health, we have not been contacted for approval of a change of scope of practice by the ADS. ADS are allowed to practice a very limited use of auricular acupuncture due to a clause in the Acupuncture Practice Act.

Licensed Acupuncturists should be the primary profession regulating the use of acupuncture, it is not appropriate for another profession to decide what the standards are for the medical application of acupuncture needles.

The training and lack of standards currently used by the acupuncture detox specialists is not designed for use in private practice. They are not Licensed Acupuncturists as we are with extensive training and who are nationally certified and licensed by the state of Connecticut to practice Acupuncture.

Expanding the scope of practice of alcohol and drug counselors to circumvent the standards Connecticut has placed on the practice of Acupuncture is short-sighted and is not good legislation.

I respectfully request that all language in SB 353 pertaining to the use of acupuncture be removed and this bill be returned to committee. We are not interested in preventing patients from getting treatment for addiction and prevent any such bills.

The Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine profession is acting nationally to address the growing concern of opioid abuse and addiction and the benefits of acupuncture as a non-pharmalogical pain treatment option in hospitals and pain clinics.

Any discussion of acupuncture in the treatment for pain and opioid use should include Connecticut's Licensed Acupuncturists at the policy table. I ask as a member of the state acupuncture society that the legislative committee maintain appropriate regulations surrounding the practice of acupuncture, and the procedures that are required to determine scope of practice be maintained.

***I request that this bill be returned to committee to reconsider this oversight.***

Respectfully yours,

Jody Eisemann, L.Ac.

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